

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

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5 1. An animal suitable as a model for an allergic disorder, wherein the animal is an immuno-modulated animal which has been sensitized with an antigen under a specific pathogen free environment such that the animal displays allergy symptoms caused by the antigen.

2. The animal of Claim 1, which is a non-human mammal.

10 3. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the skin of the animal has been sensitized with the antigen.

4. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the allergic disorder is selected from the group consisting of atopic dermatitis, atopic asthma, conjunctival allergy, allergic rhinitis, food allergy, urticaria, contact dermatitis, allergic reactions to drugs, anaphylaxis, autoimmune disease, organ transplant rejection and allo- or xeno-tissue transplant rejection.

15 5. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the animal is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, rat, guinea pig, rabbit, dog, cat, cow, sheep, and pig.

6. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a mouse or a rat.

20 7. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the animal is selected from the group consisting of an LEC rat, BN/Crj rat, NC/Nga mouse, MRL/lpr mouse, NZW mouse, NBZ mouse, and NZW/B F1 mouse.

8. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a NC/Nga mouse.

9. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the allergic disorder is atopic dermatitis.

10. The animal of Claim 1, which is a mouse and wherein the allergic disorder is atopic dermatitis.

11. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the allergen is selected from the group consisting of poke weed mitogen, mite, pollen, dandruff, animal fur and animal feather, and extracts therefrom.

12. The animal of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a NC/Nga mouse and the antigen is a mite extract.

13. A method of producing the animal of Claim 1, comprising:
maintaining an immuno-modulated animal in a Specific Pathogen Free environment and sensitizing the animal with the antigen.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the animal is sensitized with the antigen for at least 5 days.

15. A method of screening for an agent for effectiveness against an allergic disorder, comprising:

applying at least one agent to the animal of Claim 1,
determining whether the agent reduced the allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder,
correlating a reduction in the allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder with effectiveness against the allergic disorder, and
correlating a lack of reduction in the allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder with ineffectiveness against the allergic disorder.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the allergic disorder is selected from the group consisting of atopic dermatitis, atopic asthma, conjunctival allergy, allergic rhinitis, food allergy, urticaria, contact dermatitis, allergic reactions to drugs, anaphylaxis, autoimmune disease, organ transplant rejection and allo- or xeno-tissue transplant rejection.

17. A method of treating an allergic disorder, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an agent correlated with a reduction in an allergy symptom according to the method of Claim 15.

18. A method of screening for an agent for effectiveness in preventing an allergic disorder, comprising:

applying at least one agent to the an immuno-modulated experimental animal, sensitizing the animal with an antigen, determining whether the agent prevents an allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder in the animal,

correlating prevention of the allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder with effectiveness for preventing the allergic disorder, and

correlating prevention of the allergy symptom and/or in vitro disorder with ineffectiveness for preventing the allergic disorder.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the allergic disorder is selected from the group consisting of atopic dermatitis, atopic asthma, conjunctival allergy, allergic rhinitis, food allergy, urticaria, contact dermatitis, allergic reactions to drugs, anaphylaxis, autoimmune disease, organ transplant rejection and allo- or xeno-tissue transplant rejection.

20. A method of preventing an allergic disorder, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an agent correlated with preventing an allergy symptom according to the method of Claim 18.